

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In addition, claim 1 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements.

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Response:

Claims 1, 15, and 16 have been amended. Claim 1 now recites that the touch panel comprises a plurality of display units. Each of the display units comprises a container, a transparent film, a first isolating component, and a second isolating component. The transparent film is installed on an upper surface of the container, whereas the first isolating component is installed on a bottom surface of the container and a portion of sidewalls of the container for isolating the container from containers of neighboring display units and for carrying the magnetic materials. Furthermore, the first isolating component is no longer described as being installed on a base, and as a result, there is no confusion with the structure of the first isolating component and the electromagnetic apparatus installed under the plurality of display units. All amendments to claim 1 are fully supported in Figures 5 and 6, along with corresponding sections of the specification, and no new matter is added.

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Claim 15 has also been amended to change the phrase “the stress” to become “stress”. Claim 16 has been amended to depend on claim 15 instead of claim 1. Claim 15 and 16 now contain proper antecedent basis for the limitations contained therein.

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In view of the amendments to claims 1, 15, and 16, reconsideration of claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

5 Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murata et al. (US 4,143,472).

Response:

Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish from Murata. Claim 1 now recites
10 that each display unit in the touch panel comprises a container containing magnetic materials, and that a second isolating component separates the container into an upper chamber and a lower chamber. Claim 1 also specifies that the second isolating component has an opening between the upper chamber and the lower chambers for allowing the magnetic materials to pass through the
15 opening. The upper chamber is located between the transparent film and the second isolating component, and the lower chamber is located beneath the upper chamber and between the second isolating component and the first isolating component installed on the bottom surface of the container. These amendments to claim 1 are fully supported in Figures 5 and 6, along with paragraph [0024] of the
20 specification, and no new matter is added.

The touch panel of claim 1 uses a second isolating component to separate the upper chamber from the lower chamber, but the second isolating component has an opening for allowing magnetic material to pass from one chamber to the
25 other. When the user uses a stylus on the touch panel, magnetic material will be attracted from the lower chamber to the upper chamber so that the user can see a trace pattern of where the stylus has just been. Then, when power is provided to the electromagnetic apparatus installed under display units, the magnetic material will be attracted back to the lower chamber from the upper chamber. In this way,
30 the user will not see the magnetic material after a predetermined time has passed.

In contrast, Murata does not teach the use of a second isolating component for separating the container into an upper chamber and a lower chamber. Murata also does not teach that the upper chamber is located between the transparent film and the second isolating component, and that the lower chamber is located beneath the upper chamber and between the second isolating component and the first isolating component installed on the bottom surface of the container.

Instead, Murata teaches in Figures 4 and 5 and in column 4, line 44 to column 5, line 2 that a multi-cell plate 16 is located between the front substrate 11 and the rear substrate 12. Murata teaches in column 4, lines 45-47 that the multi-cell plate 16 contains a number of independent small cells that provides through-holes between the front substrate 11 and the rear substrate 12. However, Murata does not teach the structure of the second isolating component as is claimed. That is, Murata does not teach that the multi-cell plate 16 separates a container into an upper chamber and a lower chamber. Additionally, Murata does not teach that the upper chamber is located between the transparent film and the second isolating component, and that the lower chamber is located beneath the upper chamber and between the second isolating component and the first isolating component installed on the bottom surface of the container.

As a result, Murata does not teach a way of attracting magnetic material from the lower chamber into the upper chamber, or vice versa. Therefore, the claimed structure of the touch panel recited in claim 1 is both novel and patentable over Murata.

Claims 2-16 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-16 is therefore respectfully requested.

30 3. Introduction to new claims 17 and 18

New claim 17 further specifies that the second isolating component is horizontal and substantially parallel to the transparent film and the first isolating component installed on the bottom surface of the container. This amendment is fully supported in Figure 7, along with paragraph [0024] of the specification, and no new matter is added.

Murata does not teach a second isolating component that is horizontal or that is substantially parallel to a transparent film or a first isolating component installed on the bottom surface of the container. Instead, Murata teaches that the multi-cell plate 16 has cells extending vertically, and perpendicular to the front substrate 11 and the rear substrate 12.

New claim 18 states that the touch panel is installed on a portable computer. Consideration of new claims 17 and 18 is respectfully requested.

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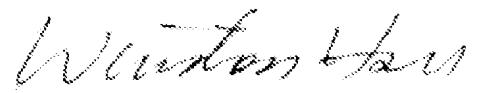
In view of the claim amendments and the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



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